

Mormon Pioneer Stubbs' Families from Cheshire

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (“Mormons”) was established in up-state New York in 1830. Due to persecutions, the Church’s headquarters moved from Northern Ohio and Western Missouri (until about 1838), to Eastern Illinois (City of Nauvoo; until about 1847), and then to Salt Lake City (to the present).

A mere seven years after the Church’s founding, in 1837, missionaries of were sent to Great Britain.¹ The missionaries’ greatest successes were among the working classes in industrial areas around Preston, Manchester, and Birmingham.

Until well into the 20th century, converts were encouraged to “gather to Zion,” meaning to immigrate to where the Church was well established in Nauvoo, Illinois, and then the US Intermountain West (stretching from southern parts of Alberta, Canada on the north, to Mexican “colonies” in northern Chihuahua Mexico on the south).

The Church estimates that between 1840 and 1920, more than 50,000 British converts answered the call to “gather to Zion” in the western US. Between 1847 (when Brigham Young led the first wagon train of Latter-day Saints to Utah) and 1870 (with the completion of the intercontinental railroad), most of this immigration meant using wagons pulled by oxen (for the lucky ones), pulling handcarts themselves (for the poor), or just walking, from the Mississippi River to Utah. People who immigrated during this period from 1847 to 1869 are known as “Mormon Pioneers.”

Among the Mormon Pioneers were several people named Stubbs. Of particular note were three men:

- **Richard Stubbs**, born in 1823 in Northwich, Cheshire, England.²
- **Peter Stubbs**, born in 1824 in Newton, Middlewich, Cheshire, England.³
- **William Munford Stubbs**, born 1858 in Hethel, Norfolk, England.^{4 & 5}

A few other “Stubbses” are mentioned in the Church’s Pioneer Database. Most of those are brothers, sons, sisters, or daughters of the first two (I will follow up to see whether I’ve caught all of the Pioneer Stubbses, but the majority of the modern Mormon Pioneer Stubbs descendants seem to come from these three lines.)

Richard Stubbs

Curiously, **Richard Stubbs** did *not* immigrate because he had joined the Church. After the death of his father and five of his 10 siblings from tuberculosis, his mother and older brother **William Stubbs** joined the Church. They decided to emigrate to where the Church was located in Nauvoo, Illinois with the three younger children in 1842 and convinced Richard to join them. After emigrating, he was baptized into the Church in Nauvoo, Illinois in 1843. (It appears that William may have immigrated back to England some years later.)

¹ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “A Brief History of the Church in England—Overview.”

² The Church. *Pioneer Database, 1847 – 1868*. “Richard Stubbs.” <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/overlandtravel/pioneers/11795/richard-stubbs>. Accessed July 2019.

³ The Church. *Pioneer Database, 1847 – 1868*. “Peter Stubbs.” <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/overlandtravel/pioneers/11795/richard-stubbs>. Accessed July 2019.

⁴ The Church. *Pioneer Database, 1847 – 1868*. “William Munford Stubbs.” <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/overlandtravel/pioneers/50310/william-munford-stubbs>. Accessed July 2019. Curiously, the names of the members of his family are all have the surname “Munford,” but notes that “Stubbs” appears on his gravestone. It is possible his mother had been previously married to someone named Stubbs. William was 5 years old at the time of his pioneer trek, travelling with his mother, Ann Munford, age 31 and, we presume, her two aged parents.

⁵ This is all we’ll say about William Munford Stubbs since this summary concerns Stubbs families originating in Cheshire. William is ancestor to the “Parowan Stubbses,” as they are sometimes known as in Utah, named after a small town in Southern Utah where William settled and died.

That same year, the Latter-day Saints were forced to leave Nauvoo. While camped along a creek in Iowa he met and fell in love with Ellender Wyer (or Ware), who was traveling with her parents Abishai and Delilah of West Virginia. They married on the plains of the Iowa territory.

His mother, Sarah, passed away, so his older brother William and he became responsible for the three younger siblings, Sarah, John, and Ann. They settled temporarily in Pottawattamie County, north of Council Bluffs, Iowa, putting in crops for later pioneers, and working to earn money to make their way to Utah.

In 1852, Brigham Young counseled those living in Iowa to make their way to Utah, so William, Richard, their three siblings, along with Richard's three young children made their way across the plains.

Richard Stubbs settled in Provo, Utah, about 40 miles south of Salt Lake City and became a farmer. He and Ellender had 11 children, 10 of whom lived to adulthood and married. His older brother **William Stubbs** settled in Salt Lake City area and had eight children.

Peter Stubbs

By the age of five, **Peter Stubbs** was orphaned and left in the care of an uncle on his father's side, John Stubbs, who bound Peter as an apprentice tailor as soon as he could. By the age of 12, his master's business had failed and so he was freed.

At the age of 15, while living with his mother's relatives in Middlewich, Cheshire, he heard the missionaries of the Church and was impressed.

He found employment in various places, ending up in Manchester, where he became "first hand" for a Mr. Holbrook, a baker, with whom he stayed for 10 years. At the age of 27 he joined the church. While Mr. Holbrook did not join the Church, he was friendly to the missionaries, probably for Peter's sake.

Peter joined a group of 345 Latter-day Saints who emigrated on the ship Elvira Owen. They landed in New Orleans, where he booked passage to St. Louis, Missouri. Although his fare covered the trip to Salt Lake City, he changed plans to join his brother-in-law, John Hindley, in Keokuk, Iowa where they became part of an independent wagon company. They reached Salt Lake City at the end of September 1853.

Peter initially intended to settle in Sanpete County (near where I presently live, in the geographic center of Utah), but troubles with local Native Americans made settlement there too dangerous.

Eventually, Peter found that he was able to use his business and entrepreneurial skills—learned from the various trades of his youth—to good effect. He owned shares in a mining enterprise, mercantile stores, and other businesses in and around Provo and American Fork, Utah. He was a veteran of Utah's "Blackhawk War" with the Utes, and was actively involved in several important events in pioneer Utah.⁶

Peter lived the Church's law of "plural marriage" or polygamy (really "polygyny") which the Church made public in 1850, and discontinued in 1890. He married his first wife, Elizabeth Dunn in 1853. They had 11 children, nine of whom lived to be adults and marry. He met and married his second wife, Ann Wride in 1862; she bore him eight children, seven of whom lived to adulthood.

⁶ Peter Stubbs. Autobiography of Peter Stubbs.

Appendix I

Summary of Paternal Ancestry of Richard Stubbs and Peter Stubbs, Mormon Pioneers

(This information was extracted from FamilySearch, the genealogy webtool of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It represents research that was mostly done before the advent of the internet and has not been independently confirmed.)

Paternal Ancestry of Richard Stubbs (b. 1823 in Northwich, Cheshire, England)

Richard Stubbs (1823 – 1902) = Ellander (Ellen) Wyer (or Ware), (1825 – 1898)

- ↳ Samuel Stubbs (1800 – 1840) = Sarah Shaw (1799 – 1843)
 - ↳ Richard Stubbs (1762 – 1844) = Mary Boyer (1756 – 1829)
 - ↳ Matthew Stubbs (1731 – 1779) = Mary Farrington (1726 – 1806)
 - ↳ Matthew Stubbs (1682 – ??) = Elizabeth Smith (1696 – 1827)
 - ↳ Ricardi Stubbs (1653 – 1727) = Margaret Platt (1655 – 1692)
 - ↳ Edward Stubbs (1633 – 1674) = Elizabeth Hankey (1635 – 1685)
 - ↳ Edward Stubbs (1602 – 1657) = Mary Ridgeway (1726 – 1806)
 - ↳ Thomas Stubbs (1571 – 1621) = unknown
 - ↳ Thomas Stubbs (1548 – 1622) = Emma Broster (1550 – 1613)
 - ↳ Geoffrey Stubbs (1508 – ??) = Mrs. Geoffrey Stubbs (1512 – ??)

Paternal Ancestry of Peter Stubbs (b. 1824 in Newton-by-Middlewich, Cheshire, England)

Peter Stubbs (1824 – 1906) = Elizabeth Dunn, (1840 – 1922)
= Ann Davies Wride (1839 – 1906)

- ↳ Peter Stubbs Jr (1797 – 1830) = Jane Steele (1797 – 1825)
 - ↳ Peter Stubbs (1762 – 1832) = Emma Leach (1763 – 1826)
 - ↳ William Stubbs (1725 – 1786) = Sarah Furnival (1736 – 1771)
 - ↳ James Stubbs (abt 1697 – 1768) = Jane Manwaring (1693 – 1727)
 - ↳ John Stubbs (1665 – ??) = Mary Lathome (1675 – 1730)
 - ↳ Henry Stubbs (abt 1645 – 1698) = Margaret (1645 – 1697)

Appendix II

Detailed Paternal Ancestry of Richard Stubbs, Mormon Pioneer

(This information was extracted from FamilySearch, the genealogy webtool of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It represents research that was mostly done before the advent of the internet and has not been independently confirmed.)

Richard Stubbs (1823 – 1902)

- b. 30 Jul 1823, Northwich, Cheshire, England
- m. 21 Jun 1843; Bausher Branch, Lee County, Iowa Territory, USA
to Ellander (Ellen) Wyer (or Ware), (1825 – 1898) of Jones Run, Harrison Co. West Virginia, USA
11 children
- d. 25 Jul 1902; Provo, Utah County, Utah

Samuel Stubbs (1800 – 1840)

- b. 18 Dec 1800, Witton-cum-Twambrooks, Cheshire, England
- m. 16 Aug 1818; Runcorn, Cheshire, England
to Sarah Shaw (1799–1843) of Witton, Cheshire, England
10 children; Richard was 4th
- d. 04 Jan 1840; Witton, Northwich, Cheshire, England

Richard Stubbs (1762 – 1844)

- b. 29 May 1762, Stanthorn, Davenham, Cheshire, England
- m. 31 Dec 1787; Tarvin, Cheshire, England
to Mary Boyer (1756 –1829) of Witton-cum-Twambrooks, Cheshire, England
8 children; Samuel was 7th
- d. 04 Jan 1840; Witton, Northwich, Cheshire, England

Matthew Stubbs (1731 – 1779)

- b. about 1731, Davenham, Cheshire, England
- m. 19 Dec 1756; Davenham, Cheshire, England
to Mary Farrington (1726 –1806) of Davenham, Cheshire, England
6 children; Richard was 3rd
- d. 28 Dec 1779; Davinham, Cheshire, England

Matthew Stubbs (1682 – ??)

- b. about 1682
- m. 14 May 1721; Acton, Cheshire, England
to Elizabeth Smith (1696 –1827) of Attleborough, Norfolk, England
3 children; Matthew was 3rd
- d. ??; ??

Ricardi Stubbs (1653 – 1727)

- b. 11 Jan 1653, Acton, Cheshire, England
- m. 28 Dec 1680; Acton by Nantwich, Cheshire, England
to Margaret Platt (1655 –1692) of Cheshire, England
6 children; Matthew was 2rd
- d. 1727

Edward Stubbs (1633 – 1674)

- b. 1633, Gawsworth, Cheshire, England
- m. 17 Apr 1655; Acton by Nantwich, Cheshire, England
to Elizabeth Hankey (1635 –1685)
1 child?; Ricardi
- d. 1674; Nantwich, Cheshire, England

Edward Stubbs (1602 – 1657)

- b. 1602, Gawsworth, Cheshire, England
- m. 24 Jun 1632; St Michael, Macclesfield, Cheshire, England
to Mary Ridgeway (1726 –1806) of Cheshire, England
5 children; Edward was 1st
- d. 1657; Gawsworth, Cheshire, England

Thomas Stubbs (1571 – 1621)

- b. about 1571, Gawsworth, Cheshire, England
- m. unknown
- d. January 1621; Gawsworth, Cheshire, England

Thomas Stubbs (1548 – 1622)

- b. 1602, Astbury, Cheshire, England
- m. 16 Jul 1572; Gawsworth, Cheshire, England
to Emma Broster (1550 –1613) of Gawsworth, Cheshire, England
1 child?; Thomas
- d. 10 Jan 1622; Gawsworth, Cheshire, England

Geoffrey Stubbs (1508 – ??)

- b. 1508, Sudlow, Cheshire, England
- m. about 1533; Astbury, Cheshire, England
to Mrs. Geoffrey Stubbs (1512 –??) of Astbury, Cheshire, England
8 children; Thomas was 8th
- d. unknown

Appendix III

Detailed Paternal Ancestry of Peter Stubbs, Mormon Pioneer

(This information was extracted from FamilySearch, the genealogy webtool of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It represents research that was mostly done before the advent of the internet and has not been independently confirmed.)

Peter Stubbs (1824 – 1906)

- b. 13 Dec 1824, Newton by Middlewich, Cheshire, England
- m1. 19 Oct 1856; Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory, USA
to Elizabeth Dunn, (1840 – 1922) of Chorlton on Medlock, Manchester, England
11 children
- m2. 04 Oct 1862; Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory, USA
to Ann Davies Wride, (1839 – 1866) of White Church, Llantonson, Llantissant,
Glamorgan, Wales
9 children
- d. 01 Jun 1906; Provo, Utah, USA

Peter Stubbs, Jr. (1797 – 1830)

- b. 31 May 1797, Middlewich, Cheshire, England
- m. 16 Aug 1818; Davenham, Cheshire, England
to Jane Steele (1797–1825) of Newton by Middlewich, Cheshire, England
4 children; Peter was 4th
- d. 28 Oct 1830; Middlewich, Cheshire, England

Peter Stubbs (Sr.) (1762 – 1832)

- b. 19 Sep 1762, Elson, Swettenham, Cheshire, England
- m. 01 Dec 1788; Warmingham, Cheshire, England
to Emma Leech (1763 –1826) of Goostrey of Barnshaw, Cheshire, England
10 children; Peter, Jr. was 5th
- d. 06 Feb 1832; Newton by Middlewich, Cheshire, England

William Stubbs (1725 – 1786)

- b. 20 Sep 1725, Swettenham, Cheshire, England
- m. 1755
to Sarah Furnival (1736 –1771?) of Sandbach, Cheshire, England
5 children; Peter was 4th
- d. July 1786; Swettenham, Cheshire, England

James Stubbs (abt 1697 – 1768)

- b. about 1697, Swettenham, Cheshire, England
- m. 07 Sep 1721; Sandbach, Cheshire, England
to Jane Manwaring (1693 –1727) of (chr.) Middlewich, Cheshire, England
4 children; William was 2nd
- d. 17 Jun 1768; Swettenham, Cheshire, England

John Stubbs (1665 – ??)

- b. 11 Jan 1653, Swettenham, Cheshire, England
- m. 02 May 1687; Prestbury, Cheshire, England
to Mary Lathome (1675 –1730) of Cheshire, England
1 child; James
- d. ??

Henry Stubbs (abt 1645 – 1698)

- b. about 1645, Gawsworth, Cheshire, England
- m. 1664; Swettenham, Cheshire, England
to Margaret (1645 –1697)
7 children; John was 1st
- d. Sep 1698; Swettenham, Cheshire, England